

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 21, 2003**

MEMBERS

PRESENT

Orlando Alcorido, Jr.
Mary Briden
Jim Critchley
Doug DeSanti
Kay Lewis, RN, PhD
Marilyn Price
Gary Smith, MD
Jerry Stein
Donald K. Uhles
Bill White
Gary Woods

MEMBERS

ABSENT

GUESTS

Janine Anderson
Paula Davis
Morey Morris
Chad Riro
Eric Rodgers
Brian Smith
Brenda Sutton
Mark Venuti

BEMS STAFF

Judi Crume, RN, PhD
Victor Dominguez
Larry Heidenberg
Lorenzo Henry
Chuck Kramer
Peggy Lahren
Larry Lorenzen
Susan Nicolas
Jerry Ollier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kay Lewis called the regular meeting of the Education Committee to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE AGENDA

Mary Briden, with a second by Doug DeSanti, motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

III. DISCUSS/AMEND and APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mary Briden, seconded by Doug DeSanti, to approve the Minutes from November 22, 2002, as presented. Motion carried.

Kay Lewis asked Jim Critchley, who replaced Roberto Torres as a new Committee member, to introduce and give a brief background on himself. Next Kay asked all in the room to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new Committee members and the new guests.

IV. DHS REPORT/INFORMATION

A. Report on the Rules Package on Items Affecting Training Programs

Instead of speaking on the Rules Package, Judi Crume spoke on the budget situation with the State since there has been a lot of press coverage on this subject and is an important concern to all. Judi stated that the current deficit is around \$300 million and the projected deficit for next year will be approximately one billion dollars. The Executive Branch of the State (i.e., the Governor's Office) has presented a budget which basically states that the State agencies have done a stellar job of making cuts within their budgets and, because of this, the Governor's Office would prefer not to make any more budget cuts the rest of this year and next year. The Department of Health Services ("Department") has been running at 20% vacancy, has given up several million dollars in savings so we can provide for the deficit this year. The Department felt that we are down to where vital services are going to be affected given any more cuts. However, the Joint

Legislative Budget Committee (“JLBC”) came out with a budget that basically said that cuts already made were not enough. The JLBC wants to take an additional \$19 million from the Department, mostly from the Division of Public Health Services that the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (“Bureau”) is part of. As far as how the JLBC budget would affect the Bureau, there would not be any contracted monies going to the Regions, which would save the State \$600,000, and an additional \$200,000 from a Rural Ambulance Program that they were not going to fund next year. They also want to take some money from the Perinatal Trust, which comes from the EMS Medical Enhancement Fund. The problem lies in the huge gap between the Executive Branch’s proposed budget and the JLBC’s proposed budget and that, at this moment, there is no negotiating going on between the two. The Department’s position is that we support the Executive Branch’s budget and feel that the JLBC’s budget would be very bad for the Department.

V. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Kay spoke about the meetings concerning the rules package revision and that they are currently looking at the Training Programs’ rules. One of the items that came out of the last Rules Task Force meeting was the validation of a training program’s success dependent on the passing ratio of the first National Registry Test for those individuals taking the initial course for the first time. Currently the pass ratio is 70% and under the rules package revision, that would be changed to 75%. This will be on the agenda for the next rules package revision meeting and for those who will be attending that meeting; Kay asked that everyone think about how this might affect their programs so that they could offer some input on this subject. Kay also said that at the last meeting it was discovered that not all of the training programs are receiving the group reports from the National Registry like they used to so they don’t have any idea as to where they stand. Also they are not receiving the summary reports of the students that do pass the NR Test in the allotted retest attempts. Kay asked that those who are doing initial programs please let her and the Bureau know whether or not they are receiving the above-mentioned reports.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Required Documentation for EMT Courses; Alternatives to Hard Copy

Victor Dominguez presented this item and said that he spoke with the Assistant Attorney General and she stated that training programs are required to maintain their documentation for courses for a period of two years from the starting date of the course. Victor mentioned to her that some training programs are concerned about the volume of paperwork that they have to store and that it is becoming cumbersome. Victor had a discussion with her about how the Bureau solved this problem by purchasing an imaging system to store our paperwork and other State agencies are using the same system. He stated that if a community college wanted to purchase a similar type of imaging system and store their records that way, it would be permissible by the State. Victor said that if any training program would like to see the Bureau’s system, he would be glad to show it to them.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ALS Refresher Course Admission Requirement

Brian Smith from Flagstaff Medical Center presented this issue. The issue is that in 2002 a new ALS Refresher curriculum was approved and incorporated by reference in Rule. According to the curriculum, no ALS providers from other states may attend the course unless seeking Arizona Certification, although the curriculum meets NR requirements. A discussion ensued and a motion was made by Jerry Stein, seconded by Bill White, to allow ALS refresher candidates from out of state, who are either currently certified or within two years of expiration, be admitted into an ALS refresher program here in Arizona. Motion carried and to be forwarded to the EMS Council as an action item and also to the Rules Task Force.

B. Required Hours for Internship as an EMT Instructor

Morey Morris from Central Arizona College gave this presentation. The issue is that individuals completing the Instructional Strategies Course are required to complete 100 clock hours of internship prior to assuming the role of instructor in EMT programs. The problem is that interns in his program are not usually paid during this period. Because of the number of hours and lack of pay, some areas of the State are lacking instructor candidates. Kay responded that this requirement was designed to give the candidate every opportunity to teach using all methods of instructional strategies in a real classroom situation and that the candidates were not expected to work without pay. That was an agency decision. Mr. Morris is asking the Committee if there could be a change in the rule to add deviation to the 100 clock hours. After a long discussion, Kay stated that it is not the purview of this Committee to make this change and that this would be handled by the Rules Task Force. Kay said that she would present this issue to the Task Force at the next Task Force meeting and suggested that Mr. Morris attend. No action by the Committee.

C. ALS Refresher Courses Not Providing NR Testing

Kay presented this issue, which is that students in some ALS refresher courses are saying that about half way through the course the instructor announces that there will be no NR Testing given after the course is completed. The students then must find an open NR Test somewhere else in the State. This increases the amount of test applicants to the NR at testing locations where it is sometimes physically impossible to conduct the tests. It was requested that the Bureau set up some freestanding NR Tests throughout the year for these types of students. Judi Crume asked the Committee that this issue be discussed within the Bureau because it obviously has some resource issues to it. The Bureau could then bring back that part of the proposal to the Committee. Kay said that we could bring this issue up at the next Committee meeting so the Bureau could present their views to the Committee. The Committee agreed to this. Doug DeSanti and Paula Davis discussed their experience and plan providing testing slots for candidates outside their training programs. No action by the Committee.

VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Paula Davis from Glendale Community College brought out an issue that several emergency departments in the State of Arizona are looking at utilizing paramedic personnel to help relieve the nursing shortage. The problem is that to accomplish this, the paramedics may have to administer drugs that are not listed in the official Arizona drug box. Her question was if the Department has a stand on this issue. Victor replied that yes, the Department does have a stand and, in fact, went to court on this issue and the Department prevailed. The Department's stand is that the paramedics' certification follows them wherever they go, including inside a hospital, and the paramedics' scope of practice is attached to that certification. Therefore, paramedics can only administer drugs that are listed in the official Arizona drug box. Next Paula asked if the paramedics' scope of practice could be expanded to allow them to administer drugs not listed in the drug box. Kay replied that this is an issue that needs to be brought up to the EMS Council and the Medical Direction Commission. Kay suggested to Paula that she write up a draft on this issue so it could be presented to EMSC and MDC.

IX. MEMBERS' EDUCATIONAL and INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kay handed out a new Education Committee Roster that included phone numbers and E-mail addresses and requested the Committee members to make sure the information is correct and, if not, please let the Committee Secretary know so it could be corrected. She also requested that, in the future, if any Committee member has a change in their address, phone number and/or E-mail address, please notify the Bureau so we will have current information on all members at all times.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for May 16, 2003, at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Items that will be forwarded to the May 16th meeting:

"Old Business"

1. Alternatives to NR Testing Outside a Paramedic Course – K. Lewis
2. Status of the Bureau Doing NR ALS Written Exam Concurrent with NR EMT-Basic Exams – V. Dominguez
3. Report on the Rules Package on Items Affecting Training Programs – D. Markley
4. Validation of EMT Training Program Success Using NRT Scores from First Test Attempt – K. Lewis

"New Business"

1. Template for EMT Curricula – D. Markley
2. Status of Instructional Strategies Course as a Requirement for Lead Instructors in EMT Programs – K. Lewis

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Approved by Education Committee on 5/16/03